



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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October 2, 2012

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H. *JE Fielding*
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **NEW GUIDELINES FOR USE OF SECTION 317 FEDERALLY FUNDED VACCINES**

This is to inform you of changes regarding the use of federally funded Section 317 vaccines in the Department of Public Health (DPH) clinics. Effective October 1, 2012, DPH is no longer able to vaccinate fully insured individuals using Section 317 funded vaccines. Therefore if an insured individual presents at a DPH clinic for immunization services, they will be referred to their medical home for those services.

Background

Prior to October 1, 2012, DPH had provided all childhood vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and a limited amount of adult vaccines to clients regardless of insurance status. DPH drew from a combination of funding streams, including State General, federal Section 317, and Vaccines for Children (VFC) funds to provide these vaccines. In particular, individuals who did not meet VFC eligibility were vaccinated using Section 317 funds, and then, if applicable, referred back to their "medical home" for future vaccines.

New Guidelines for Section 317 Funded Vaccines

Effective October 1, 2012, DPH is prohibited from using Section 317 to vaccinate the following groups:

- Children and adults with private insurance that covers immunization services, even if the plan requires a co-payment or a deductible;
- Children with Healthy Families insurance; and
- Children and adults with health savings accounts.

If an insured individual presents at a DPH clinic for immunization services, they will be referred to their primary care provider/medical home for vaccinations.

The screening process for determining eligibility has been used for some time in DPH clinics and therefore this new requirement will not result in an additional impact on workload for staff.

Outreach

In an effort to inform stakeholders of this policy change, the CDPH Immunization Branch has sent notification to the appropriate parties, including primary care providers/medical homes within Los Angeles County. CDPH will also include in the communication a reminder that referring privately insured clients to the LHD for immunization services is contrary to immunization best practices, creating barriers to missed opportunities and increasing vaccination rates. In addition, DPH has sent notification of this policy change to select local providers who may not have received a direct communication from the CDPH.

JEF:mtp

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors